

BS01286

U.S. Application No. 10/026,704 Art Unit 2661
Response to January 25, 2007 Office Action

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancel)
2. (Cancel)
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19. (Previously Presented) A set top box integrated with, or communicating with, a television, the set top box comprising:
 - a first input receiving an audio signal;
 - a first output adapted to be received by the television;
 - a second output adapted to be received by a second set top box;
 - a second input adapted to receive audible message information; and
 - a back channel communications path that is different from the first input,

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wherein the audio signal is processed for an audio channel and the audible message information is processed for another audio channel and a volume of the audio signal is reduced below a volume of the received audible message information being played.

20. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 19, wherein the message information comprises at least one of video information, text information, and a pre-formatted message.
21. (Previously Presented) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the audible message information comprises at least one of video information, text information, and a pre-formatted message.
22. (Previously Presented) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the audio content is processed for a left audio channel and the audible message information is processed for a right audio channel.
23. (Previously Presented) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the memory stores pre-made voice messages.
24. (Original) The set top box according to claim 19, wherein the message information is retrieved from a memory device.
25. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 19, further comprising memory storing pre-made voice messages.
26. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 19, further comprising a message waiting indicator.

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27. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 19, further comprising another input adapted to receive information from a keyboard.
28. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 19, wherein the first input also receives a video signal and the set top box modifies the video signal to display a text message.
29. (Previously Presented) The set top box according to claim 19, wherein the audio signal is processed for a left audio channel and the audible message information is processed for a right audio channel.
30. (Previously Presented) A set top box integrated with, or communicating with, a television, the set top box comprising memory storing instructions for:

receiving audio content via a first input;
providing a first output to the television;
communicating via a back channel communications path that is different from the first input;

providing a second output adapted to be received by a second set top box; and
receiving audible message information via a second input,

wherein the audio content is processed for an audio channel and the audible message information is processed for another audio channel and a volume of the audio content is reduced below a volume of the audible message information being played.

31. (Previously Presented) A set top box according to claim 30, wherein the memory stores instructions for receiving signals from a keyboard input.